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UNITED STATES EMBASSY PANAMA CONSULAR SECTION CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEETS

E-Mail: Panama-ACS@state.gov

DNA TEST PROCEDURES (FOR PANAMA ONLY)

Putative U.S. parent residing in the USA:

The putative parent selects a laboratory accredited by the AABB Parentage Testing Committee. Names of AABB labs can be found on the internet at www.aabb.org
The selected AABB laboratory collects specimens from the putative U.S. party and sends the appropriate kits to the U.S. Consular Section for the collection of the specimens of the parties in Panama. (The AABB laboratory should furnish the U.S. Consular Section with a return prepaid/addressed courier airbill to send back the specimens.)

An authorized* laboratory in Panama City will collect the specimens from the parties at the U.S. Embassy in Panama and the U.S. Embassy will send the kits back to the laboratory selected by the U.S. party. The U.S. Consular Section will contact the parties in Panama and will request them to select a local laboratory for drawing the samples. A list of authorized local laboratories is attached.

Following the sampling procedure, the Embassy in Panama returns the test kit directly to the appropriate AABB laboratory by the most secure and expedient method (generally Federal Express, DHL, or some other express mail service). Under no circumstances may the beneficiary handle any of the samples. The AABB laboratory communicates the test results directly to the consular officer. Since the applicant or sponsor is bearing full financial responsibility for testing, the Department of State has no objection to that person receiving a *copy* of the results from the laboratory.

Kits, as well as final results, will be sent to the following address: U.S. Embassy Panama, Consular Section, American Citizen Services, Attn: ACS Consul, Clayton Building #783, Clayton, Panama City, Republic of Panama. Our mailing address is Apartado 0816-02561, Panama 5, Panama.

Putative U.S. parent residing in Panama:

The petitioner/sponsor selects a laboratory accredited by the AABB Parentage Testing Committee, contacts the AABB laboratory directly, and makes the necessary arrangements (including payment) for conducting the genetic test. The petitioner/sponsor may also contact any of the listed authorized laboratories in Panama and request them to contact their selected accredited AABB laboratory in the USA.

The AABB laboratory sends a test kit and explicit instructions to the Consular Section at: U.S. Embassy Panama, Consular Section, American Citizens Services, Attn: ACS Consul, Clayton Building 783, Clayton Panama City, Panama. Our mailing address is Apartado 0816-02561, Panama 5, Panama.

Following the sampling procedure, the U.S. Embassy in Panama returns the test kit directly to the appropriate AABB laboratory by the most secure and expedient method (generally Federal Express, DHL, or some other express mail service). Under no circumstances may the beneficiary handle any of the samples. The AABB laboratory communicates the test results directly to the consular officer. Since the applicant or sponsor is bearing full financial responsibility for testing, Department of State has no objection to that person receiving a *copy* of the results from the laboratory.

All costs are borne by the interested parties.

Note for sample collection in local laboratories in Panama:

For your information, consular officers are responsible for taking necessary safeguards against tampering with the process. Therefore the presence of a consular officer (or associate) is required to ensure adherence to proper safeguards. Please contact us at Panama-ACS@state.gov for an appointment.

The person having the sample taken must bring his/her passport or valid identification to the appointment.

^{*}Selected Panamanian laboratories are certified by the Consejo Técnico de Salud as authorized for DNA related issues.

AUTHORIZED LABORATORIES IN PANAMA FOR DNA TEST-RELATED ISSUES (Sample Collection Only)

(As certified by the Consejo Técnico de Salud)

Laboratorio Clínico Del Castillo, S.A.

Altos de Niko's Café, El Dorado Tels: 260-6363 or 236-2556

Fax: 260-6173

Laboratorio Clínico Genetix

La Alameda, Edificio PH Plaza San Marcos #1 Local #6 (frente al Colegio Maria Inmaculada y detrás de RCM)

Tel: 260-2999 / Celular: 6679-7849

Mobilphone: 811

Website: www.laboratoriogenetix.com

<u>Laboratorio Inmunogenetrix, S.A. (GEN) or</u> <u>Laboratorio Clinico Molecular (ADN) y Forense GEN</u>

Edificio Adir, Local #2

Via Veneto y Cl. Eric del Valle, El Cangrejo

(Detrás del Aparthotel Las Vegas)

Tel: 213-9571 / Celular: 6674-6668

Mobilphone: 811 Fax: 269-2786